

# Tax Alert!

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*We won't support new taxes on the unemployed families struggling to pay the rent in order to give pay increases to those who already have jobs.*

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The 2003 legislative session ended on April 27, but lawmakers must return to Olympia for a special session to complete work on the state's two-year operating budget.

A budget plan supported by Republicans in both the House and Senate, and endorsed by the governor, would balance the state budget without tax increases. But the no-new-tax budget was blocked by Democrat leaders in the House who wanted tax increases in order to give pay raises to public employees.

The House Democrats' final budget required \$360 million in tax increases in order to pay for \$460 million in pay raises for public employees.

Some of the House Democrat "revenue-increasing" ideas include a general increase in the sales tax, prematurely confiscating dormant bank accounts, new taxes on cigarettes and liquor, expanding statewide gambling, and adding the sales tax to candy and gum. And much more!

Because of this insistence on new taxes, a special session of the Legislature is now needed to finish work on the budget. The special session beginning May 12 will cost \$16,000 per day.

Our hope is that the budget is balanced without new taxes. Government must live within its means.

Our priority is jobs. Tax increases would hurt our already struggling economy. We won't support new taxes on the unemployed families struggling to pay the rent in order to give pay increases to those who already have jobs.

*Brad Benson*

Rep. Brad Benson

*John E. Ahern*

Rep. John Ahern

P.S. Please use the postcard below to share your opinion of the budget situation with us.

## State budget proposals being considered in Olympia:

Governor's Plan	Senate's Plan	House Republican Plan	House Democrat Plan
Requires no new taxes	Requires no new taxes	Requires no new taxes	Requires a \$360 million tax increase

Please place stamp here



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*Please share your comments on the state operating budget and other issues addressed during the 2003 legislative session. You can contact us at: [benson\\_br@leg.wa.gov](mailto:benson_br@leg.wa.gov) or [ahern\\_jo@leg.wa.gov](mailto:ahern_jo@leg.wa.gov) or P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600. The toll-free legislative hotline is 800-562-6000.*

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☐

**NO!** No new taxes! I believe the state must live within its means.

☐

**Yes.** I support tax increases to give pay raises to public employees and pay for other increases in government spending.

Please send me more information on the state operating budget situation:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_